

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DHA-05 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 /060 W

-----015354 090003Z /66

R 081529Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4708

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, UY

SUBJ: GOU TEMPORARILY CLOSES MAGAZINE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. THE GOU, THROUGH A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ISSUED AUG. 30, CLOSED THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE BUSQUEDA FOR TWO EDITIONS. THE CLOSURE WAS, ACCORDING TO THE DECREE, A RESULT OF AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL CRITICIZING INSTITUTIONAL ACT NO. 8 (JUDICIAL RESTRUCTURING). BUSQUEDA IS EDITED BY URUGUAY'S WELL-KNOWN ECONOMIST, RAMON DIAZ, AND REGULARLY COUNTS AMONG ITS CONTRIBUTORS MEMBERS OF THE GOU "ECONOMIC TEAM".
END SUMMARY.

2. BUSQUEDA, URUGUAY'S LEADING MAGAZINE (AND ONLY ONE OF ANY STATURE), WAS CLOSED BY A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE DATED AUG. 30, FOR TWO EDITIONS. ACCORDING TO THE DECREE, BUSQUEDA USED "INJURIOUS AND OFFENSIVE TERM AND IDEAS" IN AN EDITORIAL REFERRING TO INSTITUTIONAL ACT NO 8 (WHICH IS DESIGNED TO RESTRUCTURE THE URUGUAYAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM). THE DECREE INVOKED AR. 168 (1) OF THE CONSTITUTION (THE PRESIDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF INTERNAL ORDER AND TRANQUILITY) AND DECREE 464/973 OF JUNE 27, 1973 WHICH, UNDER ARTICLE 3, PROHIBITS THE PRESS FROM PRINTING
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ANYTHING WHICH PERTURBS INTERNAL ORDER AND TRANQUILITY.

3. BUSQUEDA IS LARGELY DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC SUBJECTS BUT ALSO COMMENTS ON POLITICAL MATTERS, AND INCLUDES CULTURAL TOPICS. THE PUBLICATION'S EDITOR, RAMON DIAZ, IS A NOTED URUGUAYAN ECONOMIST WHO COLLABORATES CLOSELY WITH HIS FRIEND, FORMER MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE VEGH-VILLEGAS. WHILE

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE GOU ECONOMIC TEAM ARE FREQUENT CONTRIBUTORS, THIS HAS NOT HAMPERED BUSQUEDA IN ITS REGULAR CRITICISM OF GOU ECONOMIC POLICIES.
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4. COMMENT: BUSQUEDA'S ATTACK ON INSTITUTIONAL ACT NO. 8 ENDED WITH, THE STATEMENT, "ON THE WHOLE WE FOUND IT UNBEARABLY BADLY WRITTEN AND SOME PORTIONS WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO DECIPHER. IN GENERAL, THE STYLE IS PEDANTIC AND WORDY, LACKING VIGOR, DEFINITELY DECADENT. IT SEEMS MORE LIKE THE END OF SOMETHING RATHER THAN THE BEGINNING". SINCE THE ACT WAS REPORTEDLY WRITTEN BY PRESIDENT MENDEZ THIS MAY HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO PROMPT THE CLOSURE ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION MENDEZ DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN CRITICISM OF GOU POLICIES AND OF HIMSELF, STATING THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT PERSONAL CRITICISM BY THE PRESS. THE ACT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF PREVIOUS EDITORIAL CRITICISM, NOTABLY BY EL DIA, WITHOUT PROVOKING SIMILAR GOU REACTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAGAZINES, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONTEV04297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770326-0259
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770986/aaaacuvf.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1349312
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOU TEMPORARILY CLOSES MAGAZINE BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, UY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c56baa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009